

REMARKS

As the Examiner will note, claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 have been amended and accordingly, claims 1-4 and 6 are presently under consideration in the present application.

Claims 1-4 and 6 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner's comments concerning this rejection can be found in paragraph 9, subparagraphs a.-d. of the Examiner's Office Action letter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended to recite specific process steps thereby clearly defining the method of the present invention. Thus, with the elimination of the "wherein" expressions, claims 1, 3 and 4 clearly recite the series of process steps for achieving the method of the present invention.

With respect to claim 6, this claim has also been amended to clearly recite the structure for optimizing and stabilizing the film-blowing apparatus of the present invention. Accordingly, it is believed that all of the rejections raised by the Examiner in paragraph 9 of the Office Action letter have been dealt with and accordingly, it is believed that this rejection has been eliminated.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 101 because, in the Examiner's opinion, the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In paragraph 11 of the Examiner's Office Action letter, the Examiner states that claims 1-4 must be either tied to a particular machine or apparatus or transform a particular article to a different state or thing. As the Examiner will note, the claims of the present application, as presently amended, clearly recite the method and apparatus which is effective in arriving at the present invention. Thus, as defined by the claims of the present application, a polymer melt is

continuously extruded, in the presence of air, through an annular die in both the axial and circumferential direction, simultaneously, said axial direction being produced by the axial extension imposed by the drawing force of nip rollers and the circumferential direction being produced by the air pressure inside the extended polymer melt, whereby a biaxially oriented film is produced. Thus it is believed that the claims, as amended, define an inventive contribution which satisfies the requirements of 35 USC 112 and 35 USC 101 and accordingly reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested. Since the amendments made to the claims do not introduce new issues into the present application which would require a further examination and/or search it is believed that the present amendment does, in fact, place the present application into condition for allowance. However, if the proposed Amendment does not place the present application into condition for allowance, entry thereof is respectfully requested as placing the present application into better condition for appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch, Registration No. 22,463, at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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